

Monte Sano Messenger

Our vision is to grow spiritually and be a welcoming hilltop beacon of Christ's love, service and hope!

Important Dates

- April 11 Easter Egg Hunt 2:00-4:00
- April 12 Sunrise Service 6:00 a.m.
- April 16 Trip to Gorham's Bluff
- April 19 3-5:00 Labyrinth Workshop
- April 19 5:30 Church Committees
- April 19 6:30 Church Council
- April 26 UMW Sunday Rev. Kim Teehan
- May 2 Trip to see Miss Saigon
- May 9 Playground Work Day 9-12:00
- May 10 Mother's Day Cookout/Kickball
- May 17 Graduation Day Covered Dish
- May 31 5:00 Family Life Picnic

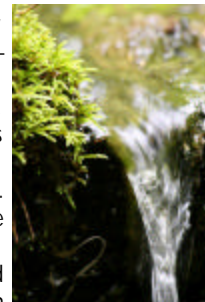


"The Unexpected Spring"

By Rev. Dale Clem

On the property our family recently purchased on Panorama Drive, just below the bluff after I trimmed back some briars and vines I noticed that a big rock became moist and wet. I have waited for it to dry, but it has remained moist all spring. I was struck by the fact that if we don't tend and respect the spring—it vanishes from view and perhaps completely. I wonder if the same would be true for the sacred love within us. Finding this unexpected spring made me want to go within myself to discover neglected springs of love that have been overgrown by the briars of regret and resentment and the vines of weariness of living in this "age of busyness." In looking at the spring, I reflected upon how quickly the negatives in our lives bring a crusty hardness which hides the well of love. We may be having wonderful lives, but we don't realize it because we allow the negatives to take front stage. They are like a bothersome blister that overtakes our experience.

During this Easter Season, let us briefly step outside ourselves and see ourselves with new eyes. What are the briars and vines which bind us? Jesus reminds us in John 15:2 that even vines which produce fruit need to be pruned so they can produce more fruit. Easter teaches us that we can rise above negatives, and those haunting hungers which jerk us around, and begin once more as new persons in Christ. If we go looking for the negatives, we will find, them, but if we look for the positive and uplifting, we might be surprised by the positives in ourselves and others. Even the wounds and grief's bring their own beauty. Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:6-10 says that it is through the cracks of the broken clay jar that Christ's light can shine. It is the holes in the lace which make it beautiful. Perhaps Easter will come alive for us when we take time in silence,



solitude and prayer to uncover the well spring of love and allow it to soften our crusty places. Then we will be ready for the rains of Pentecost which we celebrate in June.. Perhaps the Holy Spirit will so saturate us that our lives will become a spring of gurgling healing love for others. I have seen this in happen in the lives of persons in our church, haven't you? It has literally happened on our church property. After the heavy rains, when the ground between our church driveway and creek is saturated, small fountains of water erupt and gurgle down to the creek. You could walk over the grass many times, and never know that under your feet were tunnels ready to burst forth with flowing water. The same is true for each of us.

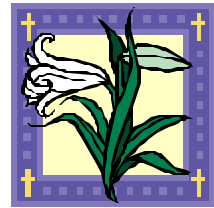
Easter Celebrates New Life

Maunder Thursday Service, April 9, 7:00 features Preacher/Storyteller, Dr. Jonathan Watts, Professor at Snead State

Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11 from 2-4 for children featuring Moon Bounce, Refreshments, Games and Stories

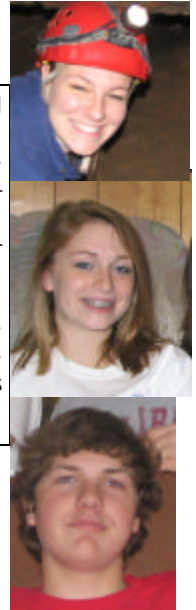
Easter Sunrise Service 6:00 a.m. at the State Park featuring our choir and Casual Worship Band and breakfast in the Lodge.

Easter Worship Services at 9:00 & 11:00



Congratulations Graduates

On May 17 we will celebrate our graduates during morning worship and with a covered dish luncheon. Our Huntsville High School Graduates are **Emily Byers**, who was the President of our Youth group and active in the Theater program and is attending Tennessee Wesleyan College, a United Methodist College in Athens, Tennessee; **Lisa Harris**, has also been active in our youth group and is attending Auburn University; **Matthew Shattuck** who has played soccer at Huntsville High and been active in our church will be attending Cumberland University on a soccer scholarship. Our college graduates include **Rebekah Pine** from Birmingham-Southern College, where she has studied Urban Ecology, and **Leslie Franks** from Auburn in nursing. **Kim Teehan** is graduating from Memphis Theological Seminary.



Labyrinth Workshop April 18

On April 18th from 3-5pm we will have a wonderful opportunity to go into depth with labyrinth and its healing benefits for one and all. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Madison, Good Shepherd in Decatur, St. Columba and Monte Sano United Methodist Church will be united to learn the mysteries of the beautiful labyrinth we built last May for healing and reconciliation. The seminar "A Mountain Labyrinth As a Beacon," will be led by Kerry Holder Joffrion who has been convinced experience after experience of the healing properties God has placed in the labyrinth experience for people and communities who walk it. Come to glean insight and healing and see why this wonderful outside cathedral is more than just a pretty landscape.

Through attending this workshop, members of our congregation and community who want to become a "docents," who explain and lead individuals or groups through the labyrinth will be organized. Come and learn and enrich your prayer life through this workshop which will include: refreshments, Small Group Work, Individual Spiritual Practice and Community Healing. For more information, see Judy Berry or email kerryholder@knology.net

You are invited to learn more about the Labyrinth

Missions

MISSIONS AND THE WEATHER CHANNEL?

Yes, they are closely related because United Methodist Committee on Relief is one of the first organizations on the scene when a disaster occurs. Tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, tidal waves - UMCOR is there. Just last Thursday there were two tornadoes in Mississippi - many of us listened carefully to see if they were close to our former homes or near our families. When we cannot go in person, we can be assured that the United Methodist Church is there. Monte Sano has UMCOR in the budget, but when special needs occur, we can make special offerings. Please be aware when these offerings are requested, that is so our churches can help.

United Methodist Children's Homes: Imagine again what it might feel like, as a child. To be moved from home to home, in foster care, from relative to relative without room for another child or another mouth to feed --they feel fear, sadness, feeling unwanted or unloved. This happens to many children today, and many of them come into the care of The United Methodist Children's Homes. "Sam", from an abusive home, and his siblings were terrified that they would be separated, and often hugged each other "goodbye" at the end of the day, knowing that they might be moved again. God works through many people, and they are together at the United Methodist Children's Home. THIS IS NOT AN UNUSUAL STORY. The children touched by this ministry discover God's unconditional love for them and the comforting feeling that someone really cares for them.

These are just two of the areas of Mission that Monte Sano United Methodist Church supports. Stay tuned. There will be more stories to come.

Mission Worker David Lewis Speaks

David Lewis, a member of our congregation who is working with "Falling Whistles" an organization he helped start spoke at our church, March 31 to a crowd of about 40 persons. Our church Mission's Committee supports David as they work with child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo. David shared stories of persons he has met in the Congo who are helping rehabilitate the child soldiers through art therapy, job training, and school. "Falling Whistles" is raising money to support these programs. The Democratic Republic of Congo is home to one of the world's deadliest wars. Children are often forced into the army and given a whistle to blow on the front lines to frighten the enemies, and take the first bullets. The whistle is a symbol in Congo of injustice, but in the West, a "whistleblower" is someone who calls out injustice. The whistle demands us to stop and pay attention. We are proud of our own whistleblowers work.



David Lewis

Building Progress



The architects are a little behind in finishing our building plans with the options our building committee has requested. When they are finished, hopefully in the next month, they will go out for bids to contractors. When we have received the bids, the Building Committee, and Building Campaign Committee will meet jointly and make a proposal to a called congregational meeting during June, 2009.

Girl Scout Project

April Showers

Our Girl Scouts are collecting items people use for personal care and hygiene. Items can be full or travel size, but all must be new. Shampoo, soap, deodorant, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, rubbing alcohol, peroxide, tampons, shaving cream, disposable razors, toilet paper, baby wipes, baby powder, lotion, band aids, sanitary napkins, and calamine lotion.

You Are Invited!

Rev. Kim Teehan and the 2009 graduating class of Memphis Theological Seminary cordially invite you to attend our Commencement Service on Saturday, May 16, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the First Baptist Church of Memphis, located at 200 East Parkway North at Poplar. Rev. Teehan will be receiving a Master of Divinity degree at this service. A reception for our guests will follow the service.



Welcome New Members



We welcome **Chris and Jennie Otto** with their sons **Owen and Andrew** to our church family. Chris comes by profession of faith and Jeanne transfers from another denomination. Owen and Andrew were baptized and are baptized members. They live at 3504 Carol Cir. and are leaders in our children's ministry.



We welcome Joe and Joann Pinnix, who come by transfer from another denomination. They live at 5130 Panorama Dr. and have a business called: "The Pinnix Group" which specializes in automation robotics. They are both artists and involved in Disciple Bible Study.

Children's Ministry

Playground Workday

Everyone is invited and encouraged to the playground workday on May 9 from 9-12. We want to update our equipment and make it safe and enjoyable. We are also putting in another gate near the building to make it safer.

Youth News



United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women met on March 3 for their Day of Prayer and Self Denial. Joan Manning and four others presented a skit on the meaning of this day. A generous offering was received.

Thirteen members plan to attend the Prayer Breakfast at Trinity United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 4th. We will meet on the church at 8 a.m. and go in the church van to Trinity.

Please mark your calendars for April 26, which is a combined UMW and Native American Day Sunday. This year's mission study was *Giving Our Hearts Away, Native American Survival*. Rev. Kim Teehan led our study and will be the guest speaker on this Sunday, April 26. Members of UMW will be ushers, prayer leaders, etc. Joan Manning will lead children's minute and tell the children about her Navaho Indian son. You will not want to miss this service.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 7 at 10 a.m. Our speaker will be Donna Rich of Hospice Family Care. We invite all women to join us at this meeting. The Lydia Circle will meet April 16 with Sara Burcham as hostess and the Beth-

April Showers in the Youth News for MSUMC

Hey Youth and Youth Families! April and May is chock full of fun for MSUMF

April 8- Mission Wednesday at Boys and Girls Club Starbucks and Tutoring

April 11- Holy Saturday Egg Hunt, Youth hide eggs at 12pm, Hunt starts at 2pm following.

April 12- Easter Sunday No Youth Group

April 15- Mission Wednesday at Boys and Girls Club Starbucks and Tutoring

April 19- Sunday 3-5pm Special Spring Seminar on the Labyrinth, All are Invited Rev. Kerry Holder Joffrion Presenting (see article in newsletter)

5pm-Girls Study 6pm- Dinner and Youth Group Disc Golf

April 26-Mission Wednesday at Boys and Girls Club Starbucks and Tutoring

April 26-Sunday 5pm- Girls Studies Capture the Flag Rematch Is On!

Upcoming May Events for Youth

May 2nd- Miss Saigon Saturday Matinee, 2pm, We will travel to Northeast Alabama College, Rainsville, Alabama to see our friend Cody Webb in the show. You must sign up at church office 533-6083. Van leaves around 12:00. Cost is \$5 per ticket plus lunch.

May 10 Mother's Day cookout and kickball game for the whole family.

May 17 Celebrate our three Graduates in church and with a lunch!

More to come to welcome our summer youth worker!

Miss Saigon Trip May 2

Our adult and youth ministries are sponsoring a trip to Northeast Community College to see the musical Miss Saigon on May 2. The cost of the tickets is \$5 and the performance is at 2:00. The van will leave around 12:00 and stop for lunch. We have served 20 tickets so sign up soon in the Church Office if you would like to attend. Mountain Resident Cody Webb is in it, and Shirley and Roland Connor's son Mark is the director.

Who for the month...

Acolytes 11:00 service:

April 5 Christian Holder-Jones
Alex Williams
April 12 Kyra McCool
Faith Tiller
April 19 Laurel Clem
Marshall Wright
April 26 Rachel Fuller
Faith Tiller

Acolytes 11:00 service:

May 3 Christian Holder-Jones
Alex Williams
May 10 Marshall Wright
Rachel Fuller
May 17 Faith Tiller
Kyra McCool
May 24 Rachel Fuller
Christian Holder-Jones
May 31 Laurel Clem
Faith Tiller

Remember in prayer

Bob & Mary Alverson Gipson Family	Mr. Lovett
Bryce Davis	Jim Eldridge Margaret Evans
Chris Hall	Betty Hightower Hilda Voss
Charlie Hughes	Lonnie Johnson Caleb Keleshian
Leymon Long	Mary McVay Kathy O'Reilly
Mildred Parker	Donna Pairmore Mary Owen
Chris Sprinkle	Nathan Stokes Gerald Todd
Nina Walker	Shaun Webb Paul Williamson

Child Care:

April 5 Cynthia Fuller
April 12 Cathy White
April 19 Cathy White
April 26 Loye Pine

Child Care:

May 3 Cynthia Fuller
May 10 Cathy White
May 17 Cathy White
May 24 Loye Pine
May 31 Cathy White

Acolytes 9:00 service:

April 5 Katie Shattuck
April 12 Laurel Clem
April 19 Anna Akin
April 26 Katie Shattuck

Acolytes 9:00 service:

May 3 John Wilder
May 10 Anna Akin
May 17 Laurel Clem
May 24 Katie Shattuck
May 31 John Wilder

April Ushers 11:00 service:

Kip Pine-HU
Loye Pine
Pete Petersen
Jan Petersen

May Ushers 11:00 service:

Ed Goss-HU
Ann Tiller
Ben Stokes
Joan Manning



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Light on the Mountain
GALA AUCTION
At the Monte Sano State Park Lodge
Friday Evening - June 26th
7 pm - 10 pm

O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me,
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling
Psalm 43:3 NRS

A blue line-art sketch of the Monte Sano State Park Lodge, showing its large, multi-story structure with a prominent gabled roof and a covered entrance.

The Spirit of Monte Sano
March 29, 2009



We had a great day saying
"thank-you" to the many vol-
unteers and person who serve
our community!

